

Members

Rep. John Aguilera, Chairperson
Rep. Rich McClain
Sen. Thomas Wyss, Vice-Chairperson
Sen. Vi Simpson
Remo Mezzetta
Dr. Mary Ilu Altman
Juana Orellan Watson
Manuel Gonzales
Salvador Soto
Ronnie Cantu
Mara Candelaria Reardon
Myrna Maldonado
Rudy Lopez
Evelyn Ridley-Turner
Carmen Quintana
Sandra D. Leek
John Hamilton
Claudia Ontiveros
Carmen Natal



LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION ON HISPANIC/LATINO AFFAIRS

Legislative Services Agency
200 West Washington Street, Suite 301
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2789
Tel: (317) 233-0696 Fax: (317) 232-2554

LSA Staff:

Valerie Ruda, Fiscal Analyst for the Committee
Susan Montgomery, Attorney for the Committee

Authority: IC-2-5-27

MEETING MINUTES¹

Meeting Date:	October 10, 2002
Meeting Time:	1:30 P.M.
Meeting Place:	Ivy Tech State College East Chicago De La Garza Campus, 410 E. Columbus Ave., Room 205
Meeting City:	East Chicago, Indiana
Meeting Number:	4

Members Present: Rep. John Aguilera, Chairperson; Sen. Thomas Wyss, Vice-Chairperson; Ronnie Cantu; Mara Candelaria Reardon; Myrna Maldonado; Evelyn Ridley-Turner (by Randel Koester); Carmen Quintana; Sandra D. Leek; Claudia Ontiveros; Carmen Natal.

Members Absent: Rep. Rich McClain; Sen. Vi Simpson; Remo Mezzetta; Dr. Mary Ilu Altman; Juana Orellan Watson; Manuel Gonzales; Salvador Soto; Rudy Lopez; John Hamilton.

Chairperson John Aguilera called the third meeting of the Legislative Commission on Hispanic/Latino Affairs to order at 1:40 p.m., and introductions were made.

A correction was noted for the minutes from the September 26, 2002, meeting. Dr. Mary Ilu Altman had asked if the State could possibly research a proposed partnership with the Mexican government. She did not ask that it be considered on the Commission's education agenda that the State engage in a partnership with the Mexican government to educate its nationals in English.

Rep. Aguilera started the meeting's discussions with a review of two topics, economic development and education, chosen by the members at the last meeting. Mara Candelaria Reardon commented

that the focus of the economic development topic was to be on minority business and their role with the state, such as with purchasing. She inquired as to whether the state has a mentorship program for minority vendors.

New Business:

Department of Commerce

Richard Rowley, General Counsel for the Indiana Department of Commerce (DOC), handed out Business Assistance (Exhibit A) and spoke of the state's incentive programs intended to help attract new businesses and expand existing ones throughout the state.

Rep. Aguilera asked how the incentives would help small businesses, and Mr. Rowley replied that Minority Business Development under the Department of Administration has incentives specific to small and minority businesses. Sen. Wyss asked if the DOC has a relationship with the State Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and Mr. Rowley noted that materials had been provided to them from the State Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Rowley commented that these are primary incentives and the booklet provides a good tool to businesses. He discussed the DOC's recent reorganization of the state into divisions and furnished a map to the members (Exhibit B).

In response to questions from Sen. Wyss, Mr. Rowley stated that the Enterprise Zone businesses fall under the State Enterprise Zone Board, which the DOC staffs; local enterprise zones are to help develop minority businesses, but are not required to report on the incentives used or initiatives made; there is no ethnicity requirement for assistance, and not all Enterprise Zones report this information in their annual reports.

Mr. Rowley stated that the DOC does not have a mentorship program, but is open to suggestions for setting one up. Rep. Aguilera regretted that Minority Business Development could not be at the meeting and that he would like to inform the community about its services. He mentioned it is unfortunate that most small businesses do not meet the criteria for the DOC's incentives.

Department of Administration

Regarding the topic focusing on minority business development and doing business with the state, Valerie Ruda handed out and described documents received from the Department of Administration: the Procurement Division's (Division) Application for Vendor Registration (Exhibit C); the Division's Vendor Handbook (Exhibit D); Minority Business Development's Proposed Rule (Exhibit E); and a Notice of a public hearing for the adoption of the administrative rule (Exhibit F). As informed by the Division, Valerie stated that the Division is in the process of developing a computer program that will be able to answer a query for specific information, such as how many procurement dollars have gone to Hispanic businesses.

Old Business:

Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV)

Sen. Wyss spoke regarding the recent Governor's Summit on Terrorism. Discussed at the Summit were the issues of the Individual Tax Identification Number (ITIN) and the Mexican identification card, (matricula), both deemed to be non-verified documents that are not reliable forms of identification.

Rep. Aguilera requested that the Commission seek information from the Mexican Consulate in Indianapolis regarding documentation necessary for the issuance of the matricula cards. Sen. Wyss pointed out that the State receives this information after the Consulate makes its

recommendations to the federal government. Tamara Brown, Chief Counsel for the BMV, spoke briefly on the issues involved in the pending lawsuit against the BMV filed by the ICLU. Sen. Wyss commented that the underlying issue of the complaint was the procedure followed by the BMV in changing its policy regarding identification documentation requirements. He also stated that the changes made to the BMV policy as of September 30 were about as far as the federal government would let the states go in loosening documentary restrictions.

In answering questions raised by Sandra Leek, Tamara Brown stated that the BMV balances ensuring safe roads and licensing by utilizing written and operating tests, and verifying identification through documentation, and that state statute requires a person's name and address to be on a driver's license.

In response to Rep. Aguilera's question regarding providing permits that do not act as forms of identification, Marilyn Cage, Legislative Liaison of the BMV, stated that the information would still need to be verified. Sen. Wyss noted that issuance of such a permit could cause a problem with INS.

Regarding Rep. Aguilera's concern for bilingual representation at BMV branches, Charlotte Rowan, a District Manager of BMV, noted that the BMV would like to have more translators at their branches and would be pleased to hire qualified individuals. In response to Ms. Reardon's question, Ms. Rowan added that the BMV might consider letting private translators work at the BMV if those people followed the BMV's translation policy.

Rep. Aguilera recognized Victoria Reardon, who urged the Commission to consider housing and ownership issues, and former State Senator, now Judge, Lonnie Randolph, from the audience.

Items for Potential Legislation

Rep. Aguilera informed the members about a Legislative Council meeting on October 17th, from which he has requested an extension of time and funding for the Commission. He requested that all the members write letters to the Speaker of the House of Representatives in support of the extension, and then reminded the members that the work of the Commission must be completed for the year at the October 31st meeting.

Susan Montgomery distributed and explained several legislative proposals regarding the status of the Commission and aliens owning real property (Exhibits G, H, J, K & L). Sen. Wyss made known that he would like a representative of the banking industry to speak on the real estate issue.

Next Meeting Time

Rep. Aguilera discussed with the members who should attend the next meeting. He then set the next meeting time for 10:30 a.m. on October 31, 2002, at the Statehouse, Room 130. Both Rep. Aguilera and Sen. Wyss expressed their interest in holding additional meetings in and around East Chicago. Rep. Aguilera adjourned the meeting at 3:57 p.m.